

REMARKS

Applicants are amending claims 6, 16, and 21 and canceling claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-20, and 22-27. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added by these amendments.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, and 27 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,671,808 to Abbott et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,036,738 to Vanzini et al. Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23, 25, and 27, so this rejection is moot.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner rejected claims 3 and 13 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Abbott and Vanzini and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0145507 to Foster. Applicants have canceled claims 3 and 13, so this rejection is moot.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner rejected claims 9 and 10 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Abbott and Vanzini and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0045458 to Polansky. Applicants have canceled claims 9 and 10, so this rejection is moot.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner rejected claim 19 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Abbott and Vanzini and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,990,587 to Willins et al. Applicants have canceled claim 19, so this rejection is moot.

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner rejected claims 22, 24, and 26 as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Abbott and Vanzini and further in view of U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2001/0004326 to Terasaki. Applicants have canceled claims 22, 24, and 26, so this rejection is moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner objected to claims 6, 16, and 21 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. In the Office Communication dated December 30, 2008, the Examiner stated that the rejection of claim 6, 16, and 21 has been withdrawn.

Applicants have amended claims 6, 16, and 21 into independent form including all of the limitations of their respective base claims. Thus Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6, 16, and 21 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims in the present application are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Dated: January 12, 2009

By:

Respectfully submitted,



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